

CLAIMS

*Sub B1*

1. A copyright information management system providing a copyright information management center, provided in a product distribution environment where products are distributed through communications lines between a product provider comprising at least one of a copyright owner creating a product and a distributor distributing the product to the market and a product user receiving the product from the product provider, for exchanging copyright information relating to the product through the communications lines with both of the product provider and the product user,

the copyright information management center centrally managing all copyright information existing in the product distribution environment through the communications lines by preregistering copyright information relating to the individual products in the center.

2. A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 1, further provided with a digital watermark embedding means by which at least one of the copyright owner and the distributor can embed copyright information relating to a product as digital watermark information directly in the data forming the product.

3. A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 2, further provided with a digital watermark detection means for detecting the digital watermark information by the product provider and product user.

4. A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said digital watermark information is comprised of one or both of open information able to be detected by the product user and non-open information unable to be detected by the product user.

5. A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 4, wherein the digital watermark

information forming the non-open information is embedded and detected using a predetermined digital watermark key and wherein said digital watermark key is registered and managed by said copyright information management center.

5           6. A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the copyright information management center is provided with a database for registering and managing copyright information.

10           7. A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 6, wherein said database comprises at least a product provider database, a respective copyright information database, a work database, a digital watermark information database, and a digital watermark key database.

15           8. A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said copyright information management center has a product provider registration means for registering a product provider in the center.

20           9. A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the copyright information management center has a product information registration means for registering product information relating to a product created in the center.

25           10. A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the copyright information management center issues a product provider ID after registering the product provider.

30           11. A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 9, wherein said copyright information management center issues a product ID after registering the product information.

35           12. A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the copyright information management center has a copyright information inquiry means for receiving inquiries about copyright information from the product provider or product user and making its own inquiries.

13. A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the copyright information management center has at least one of a copyright information updating means for updating copyright information registered in the center and a copyright information deletion means for deleting copyright information registered in the center.

Sub A 14. A copyright information management system as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the product is digital content.

15. A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 14, wherein the digital content is comprised of at least one of a moving image and a still image.

16. A copyright information management system comprised of a first subsystem having a copyright information management program unit and a second subsystem having a digital watermark information management program unit.

26 17. A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 16, wherein the above copyright information management program unit is provided with a database for registering and managing copyright information, a product provider registration program, a product information registration program, a copyright information inquiry program, and at least one of a copyright information updating program and a copyright information deletion program.

18. A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 16, wherein the digital watermark information management program unit is provided with a digital watermark embedding program, a digital watermark detection program, a digital watermark display program, a digital watermark key management program, and a digital watermark key database.